Commissioner's Cup BBQ Cook-off and Festival Returns to State Farmers Market

South Carolina Department of Agriculture Hugh E. Weathers, Commissioner

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COLUMBIA – The 8th annual Commissioner's Cup BBQ Cook-off and Festival, one of the midlands most anticipated events of the year, returns to the State Farmers Market Saturday, March 23 from 11 am- 3 pm.

Sanctioned by the Southern Barbecue Network, the cook-off will feature over 25 teams from across the southeast competing for the State Champion title and other top prizes. The public is invited to enjoy live music by Going Commando Band on the South Carolina Farm Bureau music stage, children's activities, and a variety of BBQ samples, while supplies last. There will also be food trucks on site selling BBQ plates, sweet treats, and beverages.

"We are looking forward to another successful cook-off and festival," said Hugh Weathers, SC Commissioner of Agriculture. "This event brings in around 2,500 visitors to the State Farmers Market and is an excellent opportunity to showcase all the market has to offer."

Admission for the event is \$5 per person, cash only. Children 12 and under get in free with three canned goods for Harvest Hope Food Bank. Boxes will be on site during the festival for additional canned good donations. No pets will be allowed at the event.

The State Farmers Market is located at 3483 Charleston Highway, West Columbia. For more information, visit <u>agriculture.sc.gov</u> or contact Kate Daly at 803-766-0283 or <u>kdaly@scda.sc.gov</u>.

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